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GENERALIZING OVER CONDITIONS BY COMBINING THE MULTITRAIT MULTIMETHOD MATR. (U) COLORADO UNIV AT BOULDER CENTER FOR RESEARCH ON JUDGMENT AND P...

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GENERALIZING OVER CONDITIONS BY COMBINING THE MULTITRAIT MULTIMETHOD MATRIX AND THE

REPRESENTATIVE DESIGN OF EXPERIMENTS

Kenneth R. Hammond, Robert M. Hamm and Janet Grassia

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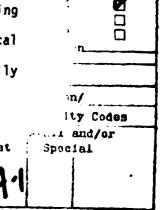
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Analytical methods should be substituted for the current largely intuitive methods for generalizing results over conditions. Toward that end we present a methodology that combines Campbell and Fiske's (1959) multitraitimultimethod matrix and Brunswik's (1956) representative design of experiments. A description of a study of expert judgment and a critique of current practices illustrate the methodology.		

Doubts about the generality of results produced by psychological research have been expressed with increasing frequency since Koch (1959) observed, after a monumental review of scientific psychology in 1959, that there is "a stubborn refusal of psychological findings to yield to empirical generalization" (pp. 729-788). Brunswik (1952. Campbell and Stanley (1966), Cronbach (1975), Epstein (1979, 1980), Einhorn and Hogarth (1981), Greenwald (1975, 1976), Hammond (1966), Meehl (1978) and Simon (1979) among others, have also called attention to this situation. Jenkins (1974), warned that "a whole theory of an experiment can be elaborated without contributing in an important way to the science because the situation is artificial and nonrepresentative" 794). Tulving (1979) makes the startling added] (p. observation that "after one hundred years of laboratory-based study of memory, we still do not seem to possess any concepts that the majority of workers would consider necessary or important" (p. 27). Nor is it unusual for reviewers of a body of literature to find, as Hastie and Park (in press) do, that over 50 studies have been carried out on a given topic without yielding a definite conclusion. Meehl (1978), summarized the consequences of the failure to develop generalizable findings by saying:

There is a period of enthusiasm about a new theory, a period of attempted application to several fact domains, a period of disillusionment as the negative data come in, a growing bafflement about inconsistent and unreplicable empirical results, multiple resort to ad hoc excuses, and then finally





people just lose interest in the thing and pursue other endeavors (p. 807).

It is our view that this situation is caused by the lack of an <u>analytical</u> means for generalizing and thus aggregating results. Consequently, aggregation rests largely on researchers' intuitive judgments of what constitutes generality of results over conditions.

In an effort to develop an analytical methodology, and thus contribute to the development of a cumulative science, we build upon two previous methodological suggestions, one from the field of individual differences (the multitrait-multimethod (MTMM) matrix introduced by Campbell and Fiske, 1959), and one from the field of experimental psychology (the representative design of experiments introduced by Brunswik, 1956). Data from a study of experts who made judgments of three concepts by three different methods provided a unique opportunity not only to make use of each of these suggestions but to combine and extend them.

Research Context

The purpose of this study was to examine the relative efficacy of intuitive, quasi-rational and analytical cognition. Twenty engineers judged the aesthetic value, safety, and capacity of 40 highways under three cognitive conditions. Each engineer's judgments were studied in each cell of the diagram presented in Figure 1. <u>Intuition</u> was induced by requiring each expert to judge each concept (aesthetics, safety, capacity) from film strips of one- to three-mile segments of each of the 40 highways. <u>Quasirationality</u> was induced by requiring each expert to

judge each concept from bar graphs that presented the values of nine attributes for each highway. Analytical cognition was induced by requiring each engineer to construct a mathematical formula for each concept. An empirical criterion was available for each concept, and thus it was possible to evaluate the accuracy of each expert's judgment in relation to each concept. The criterion for the aesthetic value of each highway was the mean judgment of 91 citizens who judged the highway segments by rating the film strips, or by rating or ranking single frames from the film strips. The criterion for safety was the accident rate for each highway segment averaged over 7 years. The criterion for capacity was the figure calculated by using the procedure from the Highway Capacity Manual 1965 (Highway Research Board, 1965). Each expert devoted roughly 20 hours to the nine sessions, each of which was separated by two-week intervals. (See Hammond, Hamm, Grassia, & Pearson, 1984, for details.)

Insert Figure 1 about here

Plan of the Article

In what follows we first present a description of the Campbell/Fiske MTMM matrix. Second, we extend the MTMM matrix to include a "coherence validity" matrix. Third, we indicate how a "performance validity" matrix incorporates the essential element of Brunswik's representative design of experiments. Fourth, we show how the complementarity of the two matrices leads to the development of a

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measure of competence. Fifth, we illustrate how the use of this methodology provides an analytical means for evaluating the results of experiments. Sixth, we use these matrices to illustrate the analytical incompleteness and overgeneralization inherent in conventional methods of accumulating results.

Campbell and Fiske's Multitrait-Multimethod (MTMM) Matrix

In their 1959 article, Campbell and Fiske convincingly demonstrated conventional single-concept single-operation the faults of the methodology in the field of individual differences. They showed that results of studies in this field were more likely to be determined by the methods employed than by the traits hypothesized to account for the Although they also showed that the failure to separate the effects of method from the effects of concept can be avoided by use of the MTMM matrix, there has been little change in conventional research methodology; current research in this area still fails systematically separate concept and method (see, for example, Pervin, 1985).

The problem is not that Campbell and Fiske's work has gone unrecognized. It has become a milestone in the methodological literature of psychology, and by 1983 had been cited over 1000 times. Yet in spite of the potential of the MTMM matrix for breaking the grip of a simpleminded operationism on psychological research, the method is for the most part simply not used. Presumably researchers have avoided it for tactical reasons, since it introduces conceptual complexity (which concepts and which methods should be compared?) and requires

considerable additional labor and apparatus within a single study (at least two methods and two concepts must be tested). Or perhaps researchers are generally unaware of the ephemeral character of results produced by single-concept single-method operationism. Whatever the reason, among tens of thousands of studies of individual differences, Turner (cited in Fiske, 1982) found only 70 published matrices between 1967 and 1980 (see Fiske, 1982, for a general review). So far as we can ascertain, the MTMM approach is never used in experimental psychology. (Campbell and Fiske cite one exception, an experimental study that employed the MTMM matrix to examine individual differences. In that study also, "the highest correlations are found among different constructs from the same method, showing the dominance of apparatus or method factors so typical of the whole field of individual differences" (1959, p. 86).)

The MTMM matrix, presented in Table 1, is developed from a set of test scores taken from a group of subjects (Campbell & Fiske, 1959). The scores for each subject are correlated over several traits and methods. This illustration is based on data from "three different traits, each measured by three methods, generating nine separate variables" (1959, p. 82). The reliabilities are indicated in parentheses in the main diagonal. The convergent validity coefficients (monotrait-heteromethod) that are derived from measuring the same trait by different methods are shown in the lower diagonals (e.g., .57, .57, and .46 et seq.). A heterotrait-monomethod triangle lies below the main reliability diagonal and a heterotrait-heteromethod triangle lies to either side of each validity diagonal.

Insert Table 1 about here

Campbell and Fiske (1959) note that "a validity value for a variable should be higher than the correlations obtained between that variable and any other variables having neither trait nor method in common. This requirement may seem so minimal and so obvious as to not need stating, yet an inspection of the literature shows that it is frequently not met, and may not be met even when the validity coefficients are of substantial size" (pp. 82-83). Thus, Campbell and Fiske (1959) introduce not only the concept of convergent validity but discriminant validity. A trait should not only be measured by results from different methods which converge upon it, but also discriminated from its rivals.

The value of this methodology has been widely recognized (see, e.g., Brewer & Collins, 1981; Fiske, 1982), and its application will yield definite and useful conclusions regarding the validity of psychological traits. (See Widaman, 1985, who reviews criticisms of the MTMM methodology as originally proposed and offers a rigorous procedure for evaluating MTMM matrices; see Schmitt, Coyle, & Saari, 1977; Kenny, 1979; Marsh & Hocevar, 1983, for the use of confirmatory factor analytic methods to analyze the MTMM matrix. See Schmitt, 1978, for the use of path analysis for evaluating a MTMM matrix; see Farh, Hoffman, & Hegarty, 1984, for a recent application.) The results from such a matrix will have populational and task generality insofar as the trait

6

domain, the apparatus/method domain and the subject domain have been adequately sampled. The results therefore establish the construct validity of the traits investigated, separate from the methods used, within the restraints chosen by the investigator.

Extension of the Campbell/Fiske Approach

In this research context we extend Campbell and Fiske's MTMM matrix from the evaluation of the construct validity of certain (a) traits within the study of (b) individual differences based on (c) group data to (a) the construct validity of judgments of concepts in a coherence validity matrix (b) a performance validity matrix that incorporates criterion measures (and their intra-ecological correlations, for each concept, and (c) the behavior of the individual rather than of the group, although group data can be analyzed as well. (See Hammond, McClelland, & Mumpower, 1980, pp. 115-127 on the advantages of single-subject analysis; also Meehl, 1978, and Serlin & Lapsley, 1985, on the problematic nature of conventional between-group comparisons.)

The coherence validity matrix. By extending the multitrait-multimethod procedure to evaluate the construct validity of an individual's judgments of concepts (as in the present study of highway engineers) we can determine whether the individual has indeed mastered each concept and is able (a) to use it across different methods (convergent validity) and (b) to differentiate it from other concepts (discriminant validity). The analysis of the construct validity of an individual's judgments by means of such a multiconcept-multimethod matrix is analogous to the analysis of the traditional Campbell/Fiske

MTMM matrix, with "concepts" substituted for "traits" in Table 1. Because the coherence of the individual's judgments of concepts can be ascertained from a multiconcept-multimethod matrix, it is called a "coherence validity matrix." Of course, the coherence matrix can be applied to individual behavior other than judgments. Problem-solving behavior, memory, and similar cognitive functions as well as psychomotor functions can also be evaluated by means of this matrix.

The use of the coherence validity matrix. Data for a coherence validity matrix based on our study of highway engineers are presented in Table 2. The data for the matrix were generated from the means of the 20 engineers' judgments for each of 40 highways presented to them for each concept-method pair. (Note: Fisher's z-transformation was used throughout this study in the calculation of mean values.) Thus, the matrix illustrates the particulars of the behavior of an artificial engineer constructed from the mean judgments of this group. Data from the artificial engineer are presented mainly to illustrate the use of the method; no inferences can be drawn from the matrix in Table 2 to a matrix generated for any one engineer. Illustrations of individual matrices are provided in Hammond, Hamm, and Grassia (1984).

Insert Table 2 about here

Each of the descriptions of the matrix presented by Campbell and Fiske (1959) apply to the matrix in Table 2. The three validity diagonals contain values that provide evidence regarding convergent

validity, and the heteroconcept triangles adjacent to them provide evidence regarding discriminant validity.

Brunswik's Representative Design

Brunswik's (1943, 1952, 1956) argument that generalization over conditions requires the representation of ecological conditions in the design of experiments must also be considered a milestone in the methodological literature of psychology (see Hammond & Wascoe, 1980, for some examples of the use of representative designs). Brunswik's work has also been cited over 1000 times, yet representative designs are seldom employed. Presumably, the same reasons that lead students of individual differences to forgo the use of the MTMM matrix also lead experimental psychologists to forgo the use of representative design: both are more difficult and time-consuming to execute than standard experiments in which the central effort--clear separation of one condition from another--is carried out without regard to the arrangement of conditions in the organism's natural habitat. As Brunswik (1956) observed, however: "generalization of results concerning the relative weights of the variables involved must remain limited unless at least the range, but better also the distribution of the 'levels of strength' employed for each variables, has been made representative of a carefully defined universe of conditions (p. 55). "Carefully defining a universe of conditions" and representing them is far more difficult than merely separating them according to design requirements, yet that is what generalization requires.

The Performance Validity Matrix

Table 3 presents a further extension of the Campbell/Fiske MTMM By linking the nine method-concept conditions with criterion measures for the three concepts, it becomes possible to evaluate the performance of each engineer across different concepts and different methods. The three validity diagonals contain monoconcept correlations between each set of judgments (one for each method) and the criterion for the same concept. For example, in the upper left-hand corner of Table 3, .855 is the correlation between the artificial engineer's judgments, under the film-strip method of the aesthetic value of each highway, and the aesthetic criterion value for each highway. The triangles consist of heteroconcept correlations between the judgments made in each concept-method condition and the criterion for a different concept. Thus, the number .016 (just below .855) represents the correlation between the judgments of aesthetics for each highway and the criterion Because safety for each highway. multiconcept-multimethod matrix can be used to evaluate an individual's performance when his/her judgments are compared with a criterion measure, we call it a "performance validity matrix."

Insert Table 3 about here

The coefficients in the performance validity matrix in Table 3 are different from those in the coherence validity matrix in that each correlation in the performance validity matrix is between judgments and

measures of a criterion rather than between two sets of responses. Aside from this very important difference, the interpretation of the coefficients wi th respect to the questions of convergent and discriminant validity is quite similar. As in the coherence validity matrix, correlations in the validity diagonal that are sufficiently large are evidence of convergent validity. In Table 3 the coefficients in the diagonals within each method block show the convergent validity of the judgment of each concept by that method. Comparison of the average of these diagonal values across the three concepts indicate the relative external convergent validity of each method. The heteroconcept triangles consist of the correlations of an expert's judgments of one concept (by a particular method) with the criterion measure of a Evidence of discriminant validity exists when a different concept. value in a validity diagonal is higher than the values lying in its column and row in the heteroconcept triangles. (Precise tests of discriminant validity for group data are described in Widaman, 1985; see also Hammond, Hamm, & Grassia, 1984.)

The Use of the Performance Validity Matrix

Convergent validity of concepts and methods. In Table 3, the validity correlation coefficient for the artificial engineer's aesthetics judgments made by the film strip method is .855, by the bar graph method is .945, and by the formula method is .951, thus producing a mean external convergent validity value across all three methods of .926 for aesthetic judgments. Averaging validity correlations pertaining to safety from the three method boxes, the mean convergent

validity (Pearson r) is .568; similarly, averaging the judgment-criterion correlations for capacity produces a mean convergent validity value of .530. In short, the data suggest that, irrespective of the method used, the artificial engineer judged highway aesthetics more accurately than highway safety or capacity, and judged safety and capacity with equal accuracy.

Convergent validity of methods. A measure of the performance convergent validity for each method may be calculated by averaging the judgment-criterion correlations within each of the diagonals (.855, .702, .291; .945, .683, .833; and .951, .226, .266), thus obtaining performance validities for each method (.672, .854, and .654). These results suggest that the artificial engineer judged these three concepts most accurately using the bar graph method. Finally, the mean of the latter three coefficients is .742. This measure is informative because it may be used to compare one group of experts with another, to compare one individual with another (in the case when a matrix is constructed for each individual), or to evaluate the effect of a change in condition in either case. Moreover, the referential domain of this measure is clear; it is general over the three methods and three concepts employed in the study, as well as the group of engineers selected.

<u>Discriminant validity</u>. The performance validity matrix provides several measures of discriminant validity. One is analogous to Campbell and Fiske's (1959) first method for calculating discriminant validity from the multitrait-multimethod validity matrix (see above). Other

measures, however, have the advantage of taking into account the intra-ecological correlations.

Measuring performance discriminant validity using a procedure analogous to Campbell and Fiske's. The discriminant validity of a specific concept-method unit can be determined using the first measure, validity coefficient with the heteroconcept comparing its coefficients that include the concept of interest. Thus, for example, in Table 3 the magnitude of the validity correlation for the aesthetics judgment made by the film-strip method (.855) can be compared with the magnitude of the correlations between the aesthetics criterion and the safety and capacity judgments (-.362 and -.473, respectively), as well as with the size of the correlations between aesthetics judgments and the safety and capacity criteria (.016 and -.172, respectively). subjective appraisals of such comparisons may suffice, Al though objective comparisons may be provided by subtracting the mean of the four heteroconcept correlations from the monoconcept correlation of interest (after appropriate z-transformations and sign changes; see discussion of Hypothesis 2, below).

Averaging the performance discriminant validity measures for the artificial engineer's aesthetics judgments across film strip (.598), bar graph (.611), and formula (.736) methods produces a measure of .653 for the artificial engineer's performance discriminant validity with regard to aesthetics; similarly, for safety the performance discriminant validity is .178 and for capacity, .115. Analogous procedures produce measures of the performance discriminant validity of each method.

Measuring discriminant validity with reference to intra-ecological correlations. The correlation between the criterion measures of the concepts provides a standard against which to compare the heteroconcept correlations between the expert's judgment of one concept and the criterion measure of a different concept. For example, since the correlation between aesthetics criteria and safety criteria is -.275, then it is appropriate for an engineer's judgments of aesthetics to be correlated -.275 with safety. Similarly, if since the correlation between two criterion measures is low (as for safety and capacity, .180), then the heteroconcept correlations should also be low. (See left-hand side of Table 3 for intra-ecological correlations criteria.) In short, the observed correlations between judgments of aesthetics, safety and capacity for an engineer are not to be compared to a standard of zero (an arbitrary demand for complete independence regardless of task conditions) but to a standard that is representative of task conditions, if we are properly to evaluate the discriminant validity of the judgments of these concepts with these methods.

To "untie" these variables, in other words to force them to be orthogonal to one another, is (a) to invite the engineer to judge an unrepresentative set of conditions and thus (b) to extrapolate the results obtained illegitimately from irrelevant conditions to the relevant ones. These two tactics have an embarrassingly long history in psychology; they are customarily explained away by arguments that "this is the best we can do" and/or "it doesn't matter, anyway." Neither argument is correct, but neither is necessary; the performance validity form of the multiconcept-multimethod matrix makes it possible to

evaluate the competence of experts (or other subjects) in relation to the task conditions to which their judgments are to be applied.

Discriminant validity of concept pairs. A performance validity measure which relates judgments to intra-ecological correlations is therefore preferable to the first performance discriminant validity measure, described above. The performance discriminant validity of a pair of concepts (e.g., aesthetics and safety) can be determined with the second performance validity measure as follows. Each of the correlations in Table 3 involving aesthetics and safety (-.362, .016, -.479, -.233, -.226 and -.313) and the intra-ecological correlation between the criterion measures of aesthetics and safety (-.275) are z-transformed. The difference between each aesthetics-safety correlation and the intra-ecological correlation is computed. absolute values of these differences are averaged; and the mean, .129 for the aesthetics-safety example, is an index of performance discriminant validity. The corresponding index for aesthetics and capacity is .121, and for safety and capacity, .302. This indicates that the safety and capacity concepts are discriminated least accurately.

Complementarity of the Coherence and Performance Validity Matrices Leads to a Measure of Competence

The distinction between coherence and performance is intended to parallel the traditional distinction between the coherence and correspondence theories of truth (see, e.g., White, 1967, and Prior, 1967). The coherence theory focuses on the extent to which statements

of facts or judgments put forward <u>cohere</u>, or "hang together" with one another; that is, are related by logical implication. Like the coherence theory of truth, the coherence validity matrix demands logical rather than external justification. Although the coherence matrix does include empirical, factual material, no reference to empirical criteria <u>outside</u> the <u>matrix</u> itself is required to establish the construct validity of a set of psychological concepts. All that is required is that a logical criterion be met, namely, that convergent validities should be high and discriminant validities should be low.

The correspondence theory of truth, on the other hand, is concerned with the extent to which our beliefs about the world correspond to independently determined facts. Therefore an independent measure of the concepts in question is required in order to test the correspondence between what a theory predicts and what exists. The performance validity matrix thus parallels the correspondence theory of truth in that it demands the evaluation of the performance of a theory; it demands the evaluation of the empirical correspondence between psychological concepts and some independent measure of the concepts. (See Einhorn & Hogarth, 1982, for a similar treatment of the components of expert judgment in which "truth," our "coherence," combined with "accuracy," our "performance," constitute "justifiability".)

Because both matrices can be developed for a single subject (and aggregated for group analyses), it is possible to <u>combine</u> the results from each matrix into a single measure to provide a higher order indicator of each individual's judgment that we shall call "competence"

(see also McClelland, 1973). Since we derive the measure of <u>competence</u> from measures of <u>coherence</u> and <u>performance</u> that are based on variations in both method and concept, our derivation copes directly with the problem of generalization. In the present case, for example, the conclusions about an expert's coherence and performance, and thus competence, are clearly based on, and thus limited to, his behavior over the three methods and three concepts employed in the study. (J. R. Kirwan, personal communication, December, 1985, has innovatively applied this method to physicians' judgments.)

Indices of Coherence, Performance and Competence

Individual differences among engineers can be studied numerical measures of convergent and discriminant validity derived from both the coherence and performance validity matrices. Procedures for evaluating validity can be converted into numerical measures by adding (or subtracting, as appropriate) the correlations in all the relevant cells in the matrix. These measures can be combined into indices of overall coherence validity, which indicates the coherence of the engineer's judgments; the corresponding index of performance validity indicates the correspondence between the engineer's judgments and And the mean of these two indices provides a measure of the engineer's overall competence. Each index can be produced at different levels of aggregation (e.g., for each concept or for each pair of methods), thus allowing numerical comparisons among these indices at each level. (The formulas for producing these indices can be found in Appendix A.)

The treatment of coherence and performance as separate cognitive functions thus will allow us to examine empirically questions of fundamental importance to both philosophers and psychologists. For example,

- 1. Does high competence always imply both high coherence and high performance? Are coherence and performance always functionally interdependent? Can one exist in the absence of the other?
- 2. Should the measures of coherence and performance be equally weighted components of competence? Currently, different approaches to the study of cognition weight these components of competence differently. For example, students of artificial intelligence and problem solving weight the experts' coherence (and the coherence of the computer program that simulates the expert) very highly while virtually ignoring performance. Students of judgment and decision making do the opposite (Hammond et al., 1980). These two fields of research are apparently investigating complementary aspects of competence among experts.

A fairly high correlation (.60) was found between coherence and performance among the experts in the example used here.

Application to Experimental Psychology

In basic research, the results of experiments are expected to be general, that is, not contingent upon the use of a single method. In addition, it is expected that the experiments will show that the concepts employed to describe the results, and not others, are indeed responsible for the results. We indicate how the construction of the coherence and performance validity matrices provides a systematic approach to the testing of hypotheses regarding these desiderata.

Coherence Validity Matrix

The first requirement is that a coherence validity matrix, similar to those in Tables 2 and 3 above, be produced for each engineer, and that convergent and discriminant validities be determined for each.

Convergent validity. The coherence convergent validity measure (monoconcept heteromethod correlations between judgments of the same concept using different methods) can be used to test the primary hypothesis of interest, thus:

H1: Each theoretical concept has empirical meaning independent of a specific method, i.e., there is convergent validity for each concept across methods and within an appropriate sample of subjects.

Hypothesis 1 was tested by asking whether, for each subject, judgments of a concept covary, independently of the methods used to make the judgments. For example, for the artificial engineer (Table 2) the

correlation between the film strip and bar graph methods for the aesthetics concept is .890; for the film strip and formula methods, .864; and for the bar graph and formula methods, .985. The overall convergent validity for aesthetics is the mean of these correlations (z-transformed), .938, which is significant at p < .001. In addition to the matrix for the artificial engineer, a matrix was developed for each of the 20 engineers individually, and this procedure was carried out for each of the three concepts. All 20 engineers had significant positive convergent validities for aesthetics, 16 for safety, and 17 for capacity. Hence we conclude that each of the three concepts is capable of being measured by appropriate subjects independently of the method used; generality has been achieved over three methods. The generality of results regarding more specific hypotheses may also be addressed. For examples see Hammond, Hamm, and Grassia (1984).

Discriminant validity. Convergent validity informs us about the covariance of judgments across methods, and thus about the status of a concept independent of the method used to measure it. In addition, however, we need to know whether the concept is discriminable from other proposed theoretical entities. Campbell and Fiske (1959) gave first priority to this test; for although many people would think it "so minimal and obvious as not to need stating," (p. 82) they observed that it often fails to be true. The coherence discriminant validity analysis employed in the examples below compares monoconcept heteromethod correlations to heteroconcept heteromethod correlations and thus allows an evaluation of the discriminability of each concept. It also permits a more detailed investigation, thus:

H2: All pairs of concepts are equally discriminable.

This hypothesis was tested by calculating an index for each concept pair for each engineer, and looking for evidence of any concept being more, or less, discriminable than the others, for a statistically significant number of engineers. To illustrate the calculation of the index for the aesthetic and safety concepts, for the artificial engineer of Table 2, we compare the correlations from the validity (monoconcept heteromethod) diagonals that involve either aesthetics (.890, .864, .985) or safety (.713, .393, .422) with the correlations from the heteroconcept heteromethod triangles that involve both concepts (.283, .244, .360, .093, .548, and .209). (The sign on all heteroconcept correlations involving aesthetics was reversed because the correlations intra-ecological between the criterion measures of aesthetics and safety, and of aesthetics and capacity, were negative.) In order to aggregate these comparisons into an index, we subtract the mean of the z-transformations of the second set of correlations (.306) from the mean of the z-transformations of the first set (1.155), which produces an index (.849) of the discriminability of the aesthetics and safety concepts. The corresponding index for aesthetics and capacity is .913; for safety and capacity, -.047. Thus, for the artificial engineer aesthetics and capacity are the easiest concepts to discriminate, and safety and capacity are most difficult to discriminate, a result which carries practical implications.

This index of discriminant validity is calculated for each concept pair from each subject's matrix, and the order among concept pairs is determined. For all 20 engineers, the safety and capacity concepts were least discriminable (Chi-squared = 37.053, p < .001). Therefore null Hypothesis 2 is rejected, for the engineers' judgments of safety and capacity are more similar to each other than either is to their judgment of aesthetics.

Performance Validity Analysis

Information beyond coherence validity is necessary for experimental confirmation of hypotheses regarding the phenomena of interest, in this case, judgments of aesthetics, safety and capacity.

Convergent validity. In the present case, measures of performance convergent validity can be based on the correlation between an engineer's judgments of a concept and the criterion measure of that concept. Rather than simply testing hypotheses regarding the performance convergent validity of each concept across methods we test a more informative hypothesis, the <u>relative</u> convergent validity of each concept, thus:

H3: No concept has higher or lower performance convergent validity than any other.

Hypothesis 3 is tested by averaging the z-transforms of the correlations for each concept across methods, and then comparing the averages for each concept. The aesthetics concept had higher convergent validity than safety or capacity for all 20 engineers (Chi-squared = 37.053,

p < .001). Despite, or because of, the counterintuitive nature of this result, it has a claim to our attention for it is general across three methods and stands against two other concepts. Similar questions of performance convergent validity can be addressed to methods. For examples, see Hammond, Hamm, and Grassia (1984).

<u>Discriminant validity</u>. The critical question is whether the concepts in question are discriminable by the subjects. Again we inquire into the relative discriminability of the concepts of interest with regard to performance, thus,

H4: All pairs of concepts are equally discriminable.

Hypothesis 4 can be tested calculating bу index of discriminability for each concept pair for each engineer, determining the order of these indices for each engineer, and seeing whether any particular order occurred in a significant number of engineers. The calculations in the first step of this procedure were illustrated above discussion of the artificial engineer's performance in discriminating between pairs of concepts (see Table 3). The procedure is carried out for each engineer, producing a measure of how well he discriminates each pair of concepts, over all three methods. The safety and capacity concepts were least accurately discriminated for 18 of the 20 engineers (Chi-squared = 26.4, p < .001). That is, 18 of the 20 engineers underdiscriminate safety and capacity, a result that is consistent with the results from the coherence validity analysis.

Summary

In this section we have illustrated the application of the multiconcept-multimethod analysis to topics typically of concern to experimental psychologists, namely, testing general propositions regarding behavior. In the examples given above the convergent and discriminant validity of three concepts was tested across three methods within the same study using the same subjects. This was done by using the coherence validity matrix, which is concerned solely with the relations among different judgments of the concepts obtained under different methods, and with the performance validity matrix, which is concerned with the relation between the experts' judgments and the criterion measures of the concepts.

Our illustration highlights the complementarity of these two analyses. We found in both the coherence and performance validity analyses that the aesthetics concept has the highest convergent validity, and that safety and capacity are least discriminable from each other. The performance validity analysis was able to put this last finding in sharper perspective than could the coherence validity analysis alone. It showed that the experts underdiscriminate safety and capacity in comparison with the intercorrelation between the criterion measures of these concepts. The engineers' judgments of these two concepts are most highly correlated, while in fact the criterion measures of these concepts have the lowest intercorrelation. This could have been otherwise; that is, if the criterion measures of safety and capacity had actually been very highly correlated, the engineers might

have <u>overdiscriminated</u> them. The performance validity analysis provides the only way to determine which of these possibilities is true.

The difference between this approach to establishing the generality of results from experimental research can best be understood by contrasting it with conventional methods.

Conventional Methods of Generalization

In spite of their many elaborations conventional methods omit the crucial comparisons of convergent and discriminant validity and thus claim cumulative results without sufficient analytical justification. example that typifies the largely intuitive method of For accumulating results in conventional practice, we consider Anderson's discussion (1985, pp. 110-112) of experimental evidence for differential memory of abstract and concrete knowledge. Anderson cites experiments, one regarding the retention of perception-based knowledge and one regarding the retention of meaning-based knowledge. concludes that the results confirm each other and thus justify the generalization that "we remember abstract information, not details" (p. Anderson's method of accumulating results is typical in that it rests on the observation that one experimenter has used one method to test the validity of an hypothesis, a second experimenter has used a different method to test the same hypothesis, and similar results have been obtained, thus general knowledge is claimed. But examination of the experimental results from the standpoint of the MTMM methodology shows why this claim is not justified.

The first experiment cited by Anderson (1985) was reported in an article by Posner (1969) in which the difference in reaction time to an "identity match" and a "name match" of letters was taken as a measure of differential retention of information. Anderson points out that "initially there is a large advantage [i.e., shorter reaction time] for the identity match but after a two-second [inter-stimulus] interval this advantage has almost completely disappeared. This alteration indicates that memory for the initial stimulus is rapidly transformed into an abstract code that does not retain specific visual information" (pp. 110-111).

The second experiment cited was carried out by Anderson (1974). He remarks that his experiment "makes the same point in the verbal domain as Posner's did in the perceptual domain" (p. 111). In Anderson's (1974) study, as in Posner's, there is the possibility of a specific information match and an abstract code match. Anderson's study differs from Posner's in that the match occurs in the context of choosing among the logical implications of critical sentences in a story. similar, however, in that reaction time was also used to evaluate differences between response categories that are analogous to Posner's identity match and name match. Differences in reaction time are again observed to be related to a length of time between presentations of the stimuli (inter-stimulus intervals). Anderson (1985) concludes that his results confirm Posner's. and summarizes with the following generalization: "So, it seems that verbal information, like visual information, tends to be short-lived and that after delays we mainly remember abstract information" (p. 112).

But the conclusion is unjustified; the aggregation process is analytically incomplete because neither convergent validity nor discriminant validity was established in either experiment. Moreover, the meaning of the principal concept (memory for abstract versus concrete materials) is exhausted in both cases by the same single operation (reaction time in relation to inter-stimulus interval), thus offering us no evidence that the result is not confined to the reaction time measure.

The incompleteness of conventional practices for aggregating results can be seen when the Posner and Anderson studies are represented in the multiconcept multimethod matrices of coherence and performance (see Table 4). Even if we assume that (a) the abstract-concrete dimension can be separated into two concepts and (b) Posner and Anderson's studies represent two different methods, we find that, of the four required, only one cell related to discriminant validity can be filled in in each study; no evidence of convergent validity (i.e., validity independent of method) can be provided. Separately, then, each study is incomplete.

Insert Table 4 about here

A performance validity matrix cannot be constructed for either study because of the restriction of the measurement of the abstract-concrete dimension in both studies to reaction time. That is, although monoconcept heteromethod correlations can be calculated (see

the top row of the performance validity matrix) these results are limited to the single criterion used; no data are available for other measures of performance such as, for example, accuracy of recall, which, after all, is what the content of the generalization claims.

If, however, we relax conditions further and pretend that each subject participated in all conditions, then we find that a hypothetical matrix would permit the examination of both discriminant and convergent validity in the coherence validity matrix. By this procedure each cell in the matrix is filled (if we further assume that reliabilities were calculated). That is, all the question marks in Table 4 would be removed. But the use of the same criterion measure (reaction time) in both studies makes it impossible to use the hypothetical aggregation to contrast performance with regard to memory for detail or for abstractions even if the same subject participated in all conditions.

Anderson (1985) cites a third study, however, that was carried out by Kolers (1979), that does use a direct criterion--accuracy of recall--for evaluating the retention of pictorial material. Unfortunately for Anderson's generalization, Kolers (1979) found results opposite to those obtained by Posner and Anderson. Anderson states that: "In a series of clever experiments, Kolers (1979) has shown that under appropriate conditions we can retain visual details about the typography of a page of print for months!" (Anderson, 1985, p. 112). Because Kolers used a different criterion of performance for the generalization from that used by Posner and Anderson, we are thus left with two contradictory performance validity matrices. But since each

incomplete, we cannot be certain which conclusion should be denied or accepted.

What, then, are we to conclude, other than that sometimes one gets one result, sometimes another? As matters stand, we cannot reconcile the contradictory results. Nor can we decide what experiment to do next without an analytical framework that indicates what information is needed to disconfirm these and other alternative plausible hypotheses. The coherence and performance matrices, however, make the requirements of future studies obvious because they specify which cells must be filled in order to defend the generalization. (See Farell, 1985, for a description of the wide variety of methods and concepts that must be considered in relation to "same"-"different" judgments.)

Our aim, of course, is not to single out for criticism the above studies or Anderson's way of reporting them. Rather, it is our intention to illustrate the largely intuitive, analytically incomplete, conventional method of aggregation and to urge its replacement by the analytical method described here, or by better ones (see, Meehl, 1978, for severe criticism of the conventional methods of cumulating results and a recommendation for improvement). But since psychologists' (and other scientists') cognitive strategies for asserting confirmation and/or generalization of results are largely intuitive they can be studied, and thus described, from the standpoint of judgment and decision theory (Hammond et al., 1980, Einhorn & Hogarth, 1981; Pitz & Sachs, 1984), and discrepencies between scientists' cognitive strategies and normative procedures could be examined with considerable profit, no

matter what the results turned out to be. Tversky (1977), Tversky and Gati (1982) and Gati and Tversky (1984) have shown that judgments of similarity and dissimilarity, which, of course, are at the root of scientists' judgments of confirmation and/or generalization, can be analyzed and understood in terms of the relative weights attached to common and distinctive features of various entities. (Other methods are described in Hammond et al., 1980.) Such studies would provide descriptions of scientists' judgment processes, which could then be compared to prescriptive, (normative) means of aggregating results, and thus enable us to discover the nature and extent of the differences between them. But in order to accomplish that goal, a prescriptive, normative methodology such as we have described here must be provided; no other exists at present. 1

Summary and Discussion

As several psychologists have observed, psychological research lacks the cumulative character critical to the development of a science. In any such circumstance suspicion would arise that the scientific discipline in question is the captive of a flawed theoretical or methodological dogma. Since theories are numerous in psychology, but methodology is uniform throughout graduate schools and journal reviews, dogmatic methodology must be the prime suspect.

We extended and integrated the pioneering efforts of Campbell and Fiske (1959) and Brunswik (1956) in order to replace the current judgment-based method with an analytically based methodology for achieving generalization over conditions as well as subjects. We then

presented an example of how generalization over methods and concepts can be obtained by the use of the coherence and performance validity matrices.

The logic of the coherence validity matrix is based on what Feigl called "triangulation in logical space" (Feigl, 1958; see also Campbell & Fiske, 1959, p. 84). From a logical point of view, the methods and concepts selected for study should be completely independent; the "triangulation" should approximate a right triangle as nearly as possible. Thus, Campbell and Fiske (1959) discuss "convergence of the independent methods" and cite Cronbach and Meehl's argument that the use of "diverse criteria give[s] greater weight to the claim of construct validity than do ... predictions of very similar behavior" (Cronbach & Meehl, 1955, p. 295).

Brunswik, however, emphasized the fact that the ecological variables that so often serve as criteria for psychologists' concepts are <u>not</u> independent, i.e., orthogonal to one another, in the organism's natural habitat. At the very least, such independence should not be taken for granted and uncritically made the essential design feature of every experiment. Therefore, from the researcher's point of view, Fiegl's concept of "triangulation in logical space" is not to be seen as a goal, but as a condition that serves didactic purposes, without regard to the demands of specific problems. The proper goal for the researcher (in contrast to the logician) is "triangulation in <u>empirical</u> space," in which the logician's worship of orthogonality is replaced by the researcher's worship of empirical generalization. Informative as the

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logician's remarks undoubtedly are, the proper goal of basic research is generalization of results. That goal can best be achieved through the use of "representative triangulation," and through the use of a performance validity matrix, in experiments as well as in studies of individual differences. We demonstrated how the conventional method of cumulating results is analytically incomplete, and thus largely intuitive. Therefore, unjustified claims of generality are to be expected.

But representative triangulation will require a substantial shift in methodology that takes cognizance of (a) the congruence between the strategy of conventional experimental designs and the aims of applied research, and (b) the incongruence between conventional experimental designs and the aims of basic research. Conventional research does not demand that claims of generalization over conditions or "treatments" be analytically justified (as our example showed). It does demand that generalization over subjects be justified (as the plethora of statistical tests over populations demonstrates). Justification of generalization over subjects is to be expected in applied research, especially applied agricultural research, which is the source of conventional designs in experimental psychology (cf. Newell & Simon, 1972, who make a similar observation). That is because applied agricultural research is disinterested in generalizing over conditions; once the treatment effects have been established, that is, found to be general over the relevant subjects (plants or animals), the farmer can control future conditions, i.e., apply only the "treatment" that works. Thus, the research user gets the information s/he wants.

controlling conditions outside the experiment is precisely what basic research psychologists cannot do. In lieu of applying the successful treatments as the farmer does, they must <u>assert</u>, by intuitive judgments of similarities and dissimilarities between different laboratory experiments, that the results provide evidence of confirmation and/or generalization. Thus, basic researchers use exactly the wrong strategy, namely, fixed conditions and general subjects, a strategy requiring generalization by judgments about what constitutes confirmation and/or generalization. Although considerable progress in understanding the nature of scientists' "generalization by judgment" might well be achieved by means of the various methods of judgment analysis, basic researchers should employ a strategy appropriate to basic research, together with an analytical method for justifying claims of generality. One such analytical method is described here.

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APPENDIX A

Procedure for Combining Indices of Validity

The various indices (e.g., of internal discriminant validity, external validity, or overall validity) are produced by taking the mean of the appropriate subindices (e.g., the first measure of internal discriminant validity, or external convergent validity) according to the pattern illustrated in Figure A-1. Each subindex is produced for each engineer by taking the mean of z-transformed correlations, from specific locations in the internal or external validity matrices, or the mean of the differences between such z-transformed correlations, corresponding to the comparisons that were illustrated above with Hypotheses 1-4. Table A-1 displays the formulas for each of the 9 subindices, at each of 6 possible levels of aggregation. For example, the formula for the internal convergent validity index, at the concept level of aggregation, is:

This index is calculated for each concept m. It is the mean, over all pairs of methods j and k where j is different from k, of the z-transformations of $r_{m_jm_k}$, which is the correlation between two judgments of concept m, using method j and method k. The correlations for the external validity matrix are (with one exception) of form r_{mn_j} ; that is, the correlation between the criterion measure of concept m and the engineer's judgment of concept n using method j. M is used as a

"mean" symbol, representing a sum of correlations divided by the number of correlations summed over. The correlations involved in producing all the subindices in this table have been z-transformed.

Insert Figure A-1 and Table A-1 about here

Once the subindices are calculated as in Table A-1, they combined as indicated in Figure A-1. Thus, the mean of the three internal discriminant validity subindices (IDV₁, IDV₂, and IDV₃) is the index for internal discriminant validity (IDV); the mean of IDV and the internal convergent validity index (ICV) is the index for coherence or internal validity (IV); and the mean of IV and the index for performance or external validity (EV) is the index for overall competence. Further discussion can be found in Hammond, Hamm, and Grassia (1984).

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Footnote

¹Meta-analysis (see, for example, Light & Pillemer, 1984) does not meet our criteria for aggregating results of experiments because it does not require a distinction between studies that establish discriminant and convergent validity and those that do not.

A Synthetic Multitrait-Multimethod Matrix

Table 1

			Method 1		-	Method 2			Method 3	
	Traits	A ₁	81	c_1	A2	82	25	A ₃	83	3
Method 1	™ 8 1 2 1 2 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1	.38	.37	(.76)						
Method 2	A 2 2 C 2	22. 11.	22, 7, 11, 11, 11, 11, 11, 11, 11, 11, 11,	.00	. 88 ez.	. 86. 86.	<u>8</u> .			
Method 3	8 8 0 3 3 3 3	. 55 	75.	11. 7. 7. 7. 7. 7. 7. 7. 7. 7. 7. 7. 7. 7.	7/E &	32, 66	E & /8.	£ 28.	(26.)	.83

From "Convergent and Discriminant Validation by the Multitrait-Multimethod Matrix" by D. T. Campbell and D. W. Fiske, 1959, Psychological Bulletin, 56, p. 82. Copyright 1959 by the American Psychological Association. Reprinted by permission. No te.

Coherence Validity Multiconcept-Multimethod Matrix for Artificial Engineer

METHOD	Film Strip Bar Graph Formula BG BG	Concepts E S C E S C	(.9825) .951 (.793) .706 (.968) .706 (.591) (.968)	F S093 \ \(\frac{3804}{393} \\ \ \cdot \frac{389}{383} \\ \ \ \cdot \frac{389}{383} \\ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \	<pre>key: monoconcept monomethod (reliability) monoconcept heteromethod (validity) s : Safety heteroconc. t monomethod c : Capacity</pre>
		\$	ш и и и и и и и и и и и и и и и и и и и	٠ ١ ١	Key: monocont monocont heteroc

Performance Validity Multiconcept-Multimethod Matrix for Artificial Engineer

		U	000.				
	Formula F	S	383				
		ш	(951)		etics	•	ſty
	£	U	.516	Key:	E : Aesthetics	S : Safety	C : Capacity
METHOD	Bar Graph BG	S	.437	ž			
		ш	.233				
	ē.	U					
	Film Strip FS	S	362		alidity)		
		ш	.016		monoconcept (valid		יסוור כל ה
		Concepts	275 275 S .180		monocor	4	וע רבו מ
			279	Key:	0	, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,	1 1 1

Table 4

Coherence and Performance Validity Matrices for Posner and Anderson Studies

Coherence Validity Matrix

		Posner (Pe	erception)	Anderson	(Verbal)
		h	¹ 1	M	2
		^C 1con	c ₂ abs	C ₁ con	C ₂ abs
м	c ₁	?ª			
^M 1	c ₂	DVb	? ^a		
	c ₁	?c _e	? ^d	?ª	
M ₂	c ₂	? ^d	? ^e	DVC	?ª

Performance Validity Matrix

Criterion 1 (RT/ISI)	PV ^f 11	PV ^f 12	PV ^f 11	PV ^f 12
Criterion ? (Accuracy)	_? f	? ^f	_? f	², t

Key:

a : Reliabilities

b : Discriminant validity provided by Posner study

c : Discriminant validity provided by Anderson study

d : Heteromethod-heteroconcept discriminant validities

e : Convergent validities

f : Performance validities

Formulas for Indices of Internal and External Validity at Various Levels of Aggregation

Committee 1				For Each Concept-Method Unit	For Each Concept (m)	For Each Concept Pair (m,n) m/n
1	2	1142511	it,	E E	# # T	
012	3 -	nverger alidity	۸ به	-	-	
	0-006	>	1001	. E	T T T T T T T T T T T T T T T T T T T	3
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EDV2	8 -	nverger altdity	* ~	-		
EDV2	0-		EDV1		~ ~	4 - F
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_		·	£043	E E	n m m m m k m m m m m m m m m m m m m m	

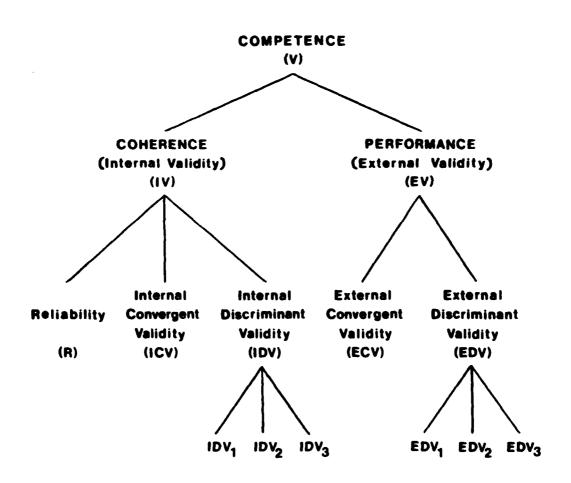
Overall : <u>;</u> For Each Method Pair (j,k) j#k for Each Method (j) EDV3 EDY2 1072 1073 EDV1 1001 Reliability Convergent Validity

Figure Captions

Figure 1. Design of the highway engineers study.

Figure A-1. The structure of indices representing coherence, performance and overall competence.

			METHOD	
		Film Strip (Intuition Inducing)	Bar Graph (Quasirationality Inducing) Q	Formula (Analysis Inducing)
CO	Aesthetics			
N C E	Safety S			
P	Capacity C		·	



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